

Note From the Director

Happy Holidays!

I want to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude to all our election judges and seasonal staff for your service in the 2014 general election. Your commitment to the community in serving in this capacity is commendable.

Election judges are truly on the front line in serving voters and protecting their constitutional rights to participate in the most fundamental democratic process. Without your time and efforts, we could not fulfill that sacred duty to our citizens. You can review the voter turnout by precinct at: <http://vote.minneapolismn.gov/results/WCMS1P-126716>. So, on behalf of all voters, we want to thank you!

The Elections & Voter Services Division's mission is to serve the citizens of Minneapolis by administering the election process with integrity and by promoting participation.

Our commitment to serve the voter extends to *serving you*, our judges. It is our utmost priority to provide you with the training and resources you need to serve voters. *We listen*; your feedback and comments are carefully reviewed and used to continually improve the election process.

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In 2015 we do not have a scheduled election but the election team will be busy with many projects in preparation for the 2016 Presidential election and the 2017 Municipal election using RCV.

Stay tuned-our 2014 Election Analysis and Recommendation Report will be presented to the Election Committee at the end of January in 2015. The report will outline election activities throughout 2014, what worked, lessons learned, and goals and initiatives for 2015.

Also, we do not want you to forget us! Throughout 2015 we will continue to publish the Election Connection. We will keep you informed on our progress on various projects and initiatives.

And, we hope that you will continue to help us recruit new election judges-your colleagues, co-workers, friends, neighbors, and family members. Serving as an election judge is an excellent way to give back to your community.

Again, many thanks for your service, your time and commitment, and your support of the City's Elections & Voter Services Division.

Election Judge Pay

Paychecks will be mailed out on December 12, 2014, and should arrive in your mailbox sometime the following week. As you know as an election judge, accuracy is critical!

We have worked closely with the City's finance and human resource departments and deployed a team of staffers to ensure you receive your correct pay. Multiple dedicated sets of eyes pored over class rosters and election judge time reports for over 1,700 election judges to calculate and verify hours worked.

At every step of the process calculations and entries were audited-in fact audited a third time as an extra measure to ensure each person receives the correct pay in a timely manner. Finally, you will receive with your paycheck information on how to read and understand the check and any related tax information.

Post-Election Review Recap



On November 18, 2014, Minneapolis Elections & Voter Services completed a Post-Election Review (PER) of its voting systems at the election warehouse in northeast Minneapolis.

After every statewide general election, county canvassing boards across Minnesota select by random drawing the precincts within their counties that must participate in the PER process.

In Minneapolis, the precincts selected were 1-7, 4-4, and 13-6. The PER process involves a hand-count of all of the voted ballots for the precincts under review, for each of the offices under consideration.

The ballots for three Minneapolis precincts were reviewed with three offices under consideration: United States Senator, United States Representative District 5, and Governor. Both polling place ballots and absentee ballots for each of the three precincts were reviewed.

Once hand-count results are obtained, these results are compared to those obtained by the electronic voting systems used for an election. This comparison is then used to verify the reliability of those systems.

Teams of two Minneapolis staff members at each of the three counting stations in the Minneapolis warehouse were responsible for conducting the PER hand-count.

These teams ultimately found no difference between the results obtained from the PER hand-count and those reported by the electronic voting systems used to count the ballots initially.

The PER in Minnesota is an event that is open to the public. For this review, members of Citizens for Election Integrity Minnesota were in attendance.

Featured Staff: Mary Goryzycki

Mary Gorzycki, also known as Up/Down Mary is our Absentee Ballot Health Care Coordinator. Mary worked many years as a Head Election Judge before she became the Health Care Coordinator in 2000. In April, she starts calling the Health Care Facilities (HCF) in the city to arrange for the dates for absentee voting visits for the Primary and General Election on site at each location.

From there, she contacts our team of Health Care Election Judges to see if everyone is on board. Then she starts the "fun" part - scheduling the judges needed to visit each facility based on its size.

The Health Care Election Judges work in pairs, each from a different political party. Many more criteria, including this party balance and the need to carpool are taken in to account to complete scheduling.

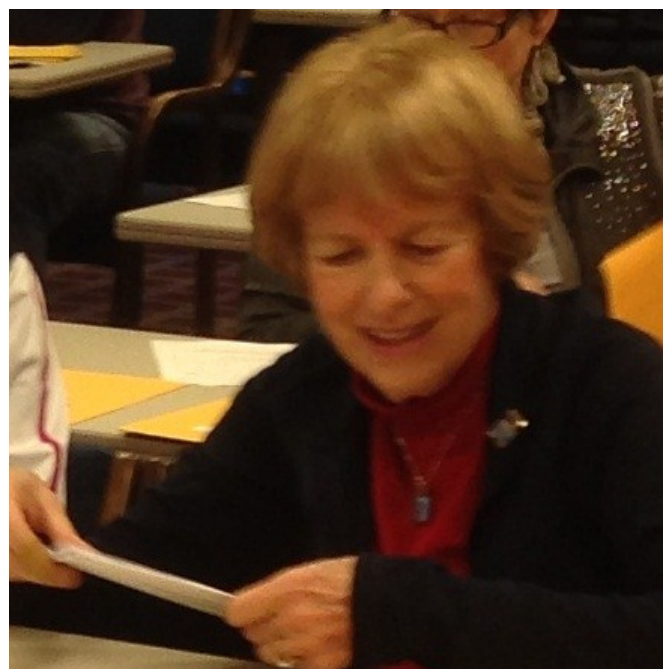
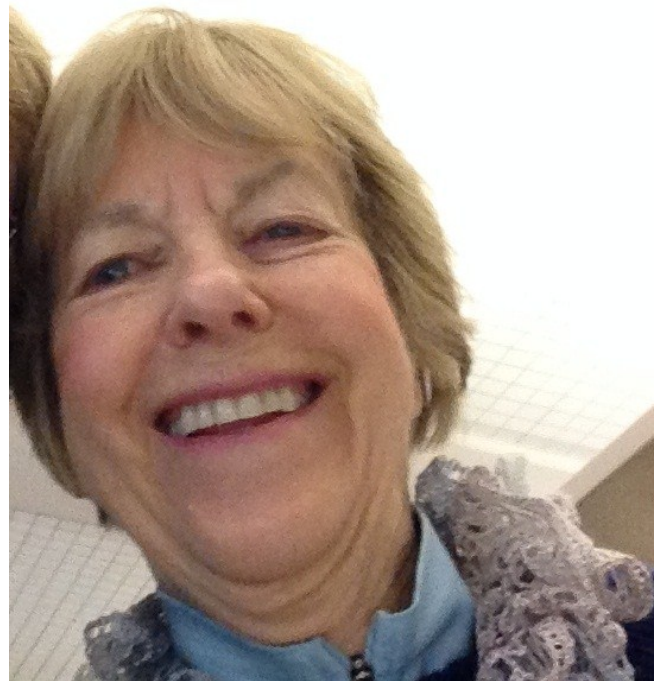
Twenty days before each election elections, the health care election judges start going out to the 19 health care facilities all over the City to enable voting by voters who cannot physically vote in the polls or absentee vote in City Hall.

We have a great team who are so kind to the residents, that is what makes this job so rewarding according to Up/Down Mary.

Mary received her nickname "Up/Down Mary" because this phenomenal woman is everywhere!

To lead her team of HCF election judges, Mary uses rooms wherever she can; downstairs in the basement, elections office previously Room 1B and upstairs in the library (in room 300) and room 319.

This year, they helped 420 voters for the 2014 Primary and 708 voters for the 2014 General Election at the 19 health care facilities we service in Minneapolis.



Featured Staff: Bob Filipek

As election judges, you're all likely aware of the Election Warehouse, where we hold the majority of our training classes, but you may or may not have met the person in charge of our warehouse functions on a day-to-day basis: Bob Filipek.

Bob works on a seasonal basis for Elections & Voter Services, and his work and leadership at our warehouse are invaluable to successful elections, most especially in terms of equipment and supplies.

Among other tasks, Bob and his team of three to four seasonal warehouse staffers ensure that all supplies are packed for each polling site, equipment is tested prior to deployment, and that all supplies and equipment get shipped out to each of 125 sites in a very short window of time.

Beyond the packing and shipping responsibilities, Bob and his team comprise the majority of Election Day Headquarters phone line staffers, answering all of the equipment and procedural questions that pop up as judges are opening or closing the polls, as well as machine issues that come up throughout the day.

Bob and his team also prepare the warehouse for the election night drop off of materials, and then spend many weeks sorting and restocking all items returned, repairing and replacing items as needed.

Beginning with the 2008 Election, Bob came on board to assist us at the warehouse and took a greater lead role in 2013. With the departure of Jim Howitt in early 2014, Bob became our Lead staffer handling the day-to-day warehouse functions, where he continues to make process improvements, and plans on implementing further advances in item tracking and inventory, as we continue to expand the amount of materials that get distributed to each polling site (new signs, flags, etc.).

Prior to his days with Minneapolis Elections, Bob worked for 32 years in the University of Minnesota Library System, first as a library assistant and later as a special projects cataloger for maps and electronic media in the Science & Engineering section. He also is a veteran of the U.S. Navy.

When we let him leave the warehouse, Bob enjoys forgetting all about ballot counters and duty bags during time at his cabin in the north woods, woodworking, hunting and fishing.



Featured Staff: Mary Davis *From Mary:*

Seasonal staff are essential to making elections happen in Minneapolis. We want to extend a great deal of thanks to two outstanding individuals who served as a part of our seasonal team in 2014 to make the student election judge program successful: **Mary Davis and Nathan Bruemmer**

Mary, served as both the Student Election Judge Coordinator and the co-trainer. She has been an invaluable colleague and also mentored new staff in the division.

She provides a wealth of knowledge of elections in Minneapolis that comes from many years of experience; her inaugural year was 1992 when she worked as a Team Judge for the City of Minneapolis.

That experience, coupled with her personable demeanor, allows her to form lasting connections with election judges and other Minneapolis elections staff.



"Seasonal work for Minneapolis Elections has been an important part of my life for several years. After initially serving as a Team Election Judge in South Minneapolis, I was asked to become a Head Judge at precincts located in Kenny and Anthony Middle Schools.

Working with our dedicated election judges and the voting public is very rewarding. Over the years I've been privileged to expand my involvement to include work as a Health Care Judge, Election Judge Training Assistant, and Office Support Specialist.

In 1991 Minneapolis Elections and Voter Services began partnering with Minneapolis Public Schools to recruit and train Student Election Judges. Judy Schwartz invited me to assume responsibility as the Student Election Judge Trainer in 2004, which means I've had the honor of working with teachers and students for the past 10 years!

During the "off season," I'm a substitute teacher for a couple of consolidated elementary schools and I serve as the Office Manager for my husband Merle's tax business.

When not involved in teaching or election-related activities, we enjoy sharing activities and spending time with our growing family which now includes 5 (soon to be 6) young grandchildren. Other sources of personal satisfaction include gardening, cooking, being active in our church, and a variety of volunteer activities."

Featured Staff: Nathan Bruemmer

Nathan is a very recent addition to our team, joining us just at the end of September of this year. Primarily, he has served skillfully as an assistant to Mary, aiding her with the tremendous task of managing the plethora of elements that comprise the Student Election Judge program.

In addition to this role, Nathan has readily taken on a variety of other responsibilities including: serving as an Assistant Head Judge in a Minneapolis polling place, performing check-in duties at election judge training sessions, and assisting the election judge coordination team in the completion of an assortment of projects.



Nathan was also a vital contributor to the success of the election judge training sessions held at a group of Minneapolis Public High Schools this past fall.

From Nathan:

"Hi, I'm Nathan Bruemmer and I'm working as an assistant to the Student Election Judge Coordinator this election season.

My job is to ensure that the finer details of Student Election Judge Program are taken care of, and to ensure that the program is running smoothly.

As a Minneapolis South High School graduate, I think the program is a great opportunity for high school students in the city to get involved in a process that matters.

Before I started working in elections I spent a year teaching English in Shenzhen, China.

I graduated from Loyola University Chicago in 2013 with a B.A. in Sociology and I am happy to be putting some of the things I learned there into practice, and to be a first-hand witness to democracy in action."

The contributions that Mary and Nathan have made to Minneapolis Elections & Voter Services and to the people of the City of Minneapolis have had a remarkably positive impact.

Unique Challenges or Lessons learned: E-Poll Books

Initially, Elections & Voter Services planned to participate in the statewide e-Poll book pilot. Precincts selected were based on the following criteria:

- ◆ High Election Day registrations: W3-P1
- ◆ Multiple precincts in one location to minimize potential of voters registering out of precinct: Powderhorn Park Bldg. W9-P2, W9-P5, and W9-P7
- ◆ Potential for second language assistance: W6-P3

Minneapolis selected and certified to use VOTEC in this pilot. The City and County tested the system during the two weeks prior to the election. Glitches found were corrected or work-around processes were developed. All parties involved worked diligently to verify that the e-Poll book met statutory reporting requirements and functionality to serve the voters.

VOTEC was very close to providing a viable solution—we just literally ran the clock down to the last minute without getting all the bugs ironed out. On Friday, October 31st, the City and County mutually agreed that serving voters took precedence over the pilot and we withdrew from participation.

The goal of the pilot was to provide baseline data from multiple vendors that the Secretary of State's Office could evaluate and report to the State Legislature next year. Almost every vendor has experienced challenges meeting the unique election laws of the State of Minnesota.

Statewide, several jurisdictions also withdrew from the pilot project with other vendors for similar reasons or inability to meet legal requirements. The original pilot project included 50 precincts with 5 different vendors providing comparable solutions.

As a result, the pilot project proceeded with approximately 21 of the original 50 precincts participating with one vendor for all except for 2 precincts.

On the positive side, being an active participant at the table with our peers from other cities and Hennepin County allowed us to have significant input on the design for the pilot project – something that will most likely carryover into the next two years. We will use those lessons learned and partnerships to ensure Minneapolis continues to have a presence when decisions are made about the potential use of new technologies in the 2016 Presidential Election.

2014 General Election: A Recap

Minneapolis voters turned out in average numbers on November 4, with approximately 125,000 voters at the polls and a little over 12,000 voting via absentee ballot. The average city-wide turnout was at 55.55%.

As noted on the accompanying map, the top five precincts in terms of turnout percentages of registered voters were:

- ◆ Ward 7-Precinct 1C (Bryn Mawr) = 73.45% turnout
- ◆ Ward 11-Precinct 1 (Tangletown) = 72.52% turnout
- ◆ Ward 11-Precinct 5 (Page) = 71.90% turnout
- ◆ Ward 13-Precinct 5 (Fulton/Lynnhust) = 71.67% turnout
- ◆ Ward 7-Precinct 7 (Bryn Mawr) = 71.31% turnout

In terms of voters served at the polls, the largest number was 1,894 at 12-5 (Nokomis Community Center). Precincts near the University of Minnesota again topped the list for Election-Day registrations, with some precincts seeing between 500-700 registrations.

While city-wide turnout remained on par with past mid-term elections (55.59% in 2010; 66% in 2006), the number of absentee votes processed reached new heights, no doubt related to the change in State law allowing for “no excuse” absentee voting.

2014 Absentee Voters: 12,279

- ◆ 91.7% increase over 2010 midterm; 65.7% increase over 2006 midterm
- ◆ 2010 Absentee Voters: 6,405
- ◆ 2006 Absentee Voters: 7,410

Continued from page 6

The majority of absentee votes came via mail (65%), while 2,559 voters (21%) were served in person. Minneapolis expanded hours for in person absentee voting at City Hall for the General Election, with extended weekday hours, continued hours on the two Saturdays prior to Election Day, and adding hours on the two Sundays prior to Election Day. We anticipate continuing such expanded hours for the 2016 General Election and beyond.

Looking at state-wide numbers, Minnesota landed at 50.51%, with 1,992,566 voters out of an estimated 3,945,136 eligible voters, finishing in the top seven states for turnout with Maine, Alaska, Wisconsin, Colorado, Oregon and Iowa. From 2004-2014, the average Minnesota turnout for *mid-term* elections is 59.7%. However, 2014 proved to be the lowest statewide turnout for a midterm election since 1986 when the average dipped to 48.17%.

The new polling precincts and polling sites seemed to be generally working well for voters and election judges. We once again supplied some larger, precinct-specific signage outside the polling places, and there will likely be some tweaks and additions to such signage for 2016. We also continued to supply A-frame or staked signage at all polling locations which provided a map of the precinct outside of the poll to assist voters, and continued a partnership with the Public Works Department to deploy voter parking signs and meter hoods in a number of precincts across the city.

We are aware that challenges remain and we've already begun compiling feedback from voters and judges alike. We look forward to reviewing options in 2015 and making any necessary enhancements and improvements as we gear up for the 2016 Presidential election.

Over 1,730 election judges were recruited, trained and deployed for the General Election, including 221 student election judges. In light of lessons learned in the 2012 election, coverage has been increased to aid in working voter lines, maintaining maximum coverage at each duty in the poll, and managing lunch and other breaks. Other staffing criteria considered include the number of registered voters, historical turnout in the precinct, and any precinct-specific needs, such as language skills.

Elections & Voter Services is always looking for innovative resources to aid our workers. Based on election judge feedback to increase the accessibility of training, four days of judge classes were offered at four separate sites strategically located throughout Minneapolis, in addition to sessions at our northeast training facility. Besides some new training locations, we were pleased to introduce our Election Judge Manual to all judges.

This manual was extremely helpful to many when questions arose on Election Day. And lastly, we were excited to increase support for our leadership roles by creating new Head and Assistant Head Judges curriculum and classes. Please do not hesitate to let us know if you are interested in taking on a leadership role.

Serving as an election judge can be challenging, but also meaningful and moving. We wanted to share one such rewarding encounter as communicated to us by one of our judges following the November election—the judge wrote:

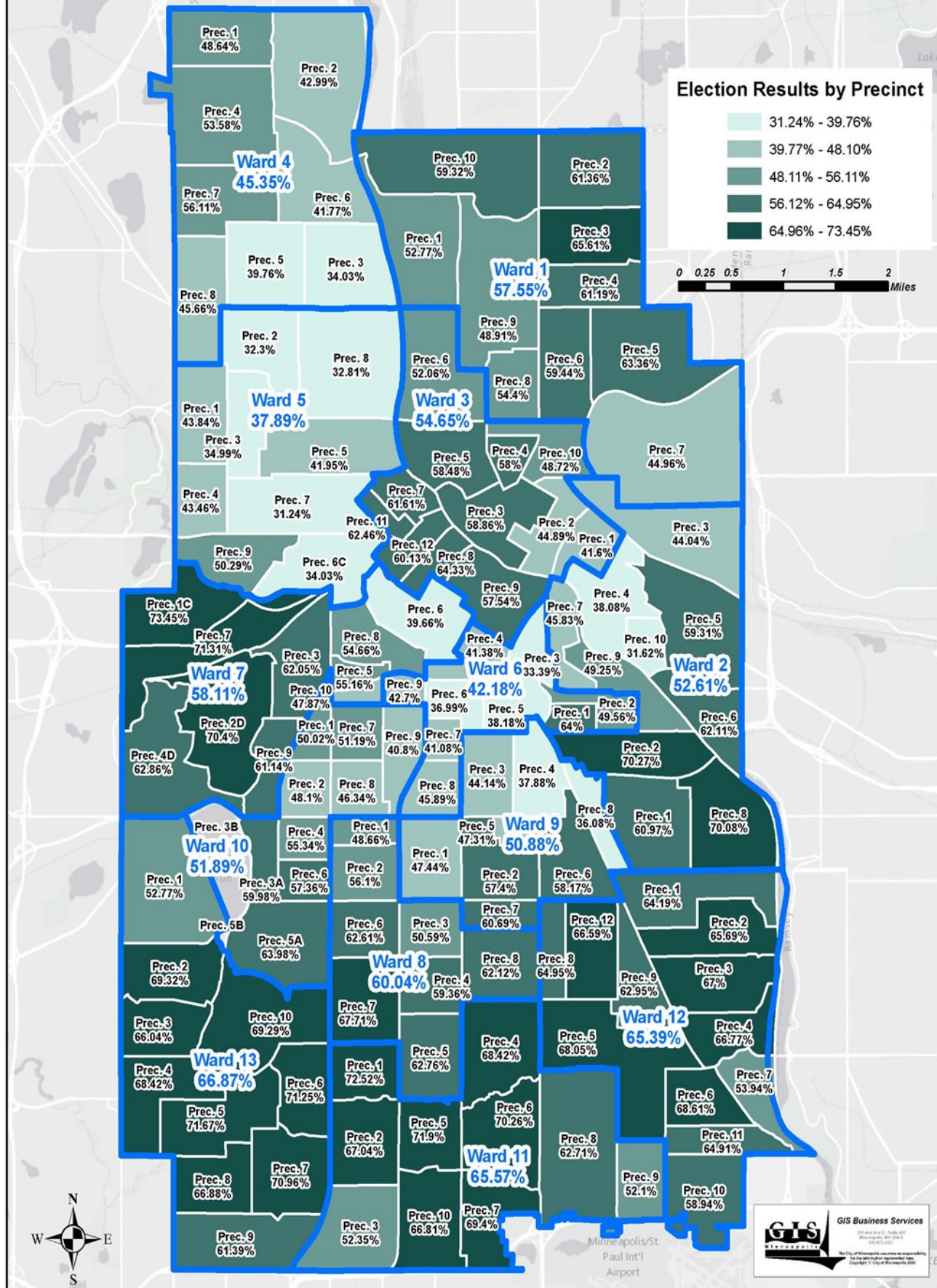
Thank you for allowing me to participate in the 2014 Primary Election and the 2014 General Election, serving full time as an Election Judge, at Coyle Center (6-3). It was a pleasure and an honor to serve with such a dedicated, considerate, hardworking, and conscientious elections group. One young man I greeted with the queries and responsibilities of the Greeter Judge during the General Election told me -as he smiled- that he just wanted to see the polling place, and would earn his right to vote in about a year.

I enjoyed the opportunity to see my Somali neighbors in a different light. Coming into contact with some recent East African arrivals in this country who have not yet completed the naturalization process, but who wanted to witness the voting process in which they eagerly anticipate partaking, was a privilege.

We are continuously seeking more civic-minded citizens, just like you! Without the help of dedicated judges, it would be impossible to conduct any election and we ask you for your support in recruiting colleagues, neighbors, friends and family to join us as Election Judges in future elections.

Finally, we continue to welcome your continued comments and suggestions related to any aspect of your work on behalf of Minneapolis. Such feedback has been insightful and helped us to better serve you and our voters.

2014 General Election Voter Turnout Results



Election Day Photos



Todd Bennington, C Rae Spencer, L'Tanyua Littlejohn,
Brenda Brown, Larry Chlebeck



Chiara (South High School), Will (Blake School), Dijon (Patrick Henry High School)